

AD-777 627

**SCATTERING OF ELECTROMAGNETIC WAVES
FROM THE TWO-DIMENSIONAL OCEAN SURFACE.
I. LINEAR WAVES IN THE PRESENCE OF
CURRENT**

Kenneth M. Watson, et al

Physical Dynamics, Incorporated

Prepared for:

**Advanced Research Projects Agency
Rome Air Development Center**

January 1974

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SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF THIS PAGE (When Data Entered)

| REPORT DOCUMENTATION PAGE | | READ INSTRUCTIONS BEFORE COMPLETING FORM |
|---|-----------------------|---|
| 1. REPORT NUMBER RADC-TR-74-42 | 2. GOVT ACCESSION NO. | 3. RECIPIENT'S CATALOG NUMBER AD 777 627 |
| 4. TITLE (and Subtitle) SCATTERING OF ELECTROMAGNETIC WAVES FROM THE TWO-DIMENSIONAL OCEAN SURFACE: I. LINEAR WAVES IN THE PRESENCE OF CURRENT | | 5. TYPE OF REPORT & PERIOD COVERED |
| | | 6. PERFORMING ORG. REPORT NUMBER PD 73-050 |
| 7. AUTHOR(s) Kenneth M. Watson Bruce J. West | | 8. CONTRACT OR GRANT NUMBER(s) F30602-72-C-0494 |
| 9. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION NAME AND ADDRESS Physical Dynamics, Inc. P.O. Box 1069 Berkeley, CA 94701 | | 10. PROGRAM ELEMENT, PROJECT, TASK AREA & WORK UNIT NUMBERS E2301E 16493402 |
| 11. CONTROLLING OFFICE NAME AND ADDRESS ARPA/STO 1400 Wilson Blvd Arlington, VA 22209 | | 12. REPORT DATE Jan 1974 |
| | | 13. NUMBER OF PAGES 26 |
| 14. MONITORING AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS (if different from Controlling Office) RADC/OCSE ATTN: Leonard Strauss Griffiss AFB, NY 13441 | | 15. SECURITY CLASS. (of this report) Unclassified |
| | | 15a. DECLASSIFICATION/DOWNGRADING SCHEDULE |
| 16. DISTRIBUTION STATEMENT (of this Report) Approved for public release; distribution unlimited. | | |
| 17. DISTRIBUTION STATEMENT (of the abstract entered in Block 20, if different from Report) See 16. | | |
| 18. SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES Reproduced by NATIONAL TECHNICAL INFORMATION SERVICE U S Department of Commerce Springfield VA 22151 | | |
| 19. KEY WORDS (Continue on reverse side if necessary and identify by block number) Scattering theory Wigner distribution function | | |
| 20. ABSTRACT (Continue on reverse side if necessary and identify by block number) The scattering of electromagnetic waves from the ocean surface when a current is present is studied. The electromagnetic waves are singly scattered by two-dimensional linear surface gravity waves interacting with a surface current. The surface is described in terms of a Wigner function, i.e., the spectral density, which has finite spatial gradients. The effect of two dimensions on the spectral perturbation is explored in a preliminary calculation for a Phillip's ambient spectrum. | | |

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I. LINEAR WAVES IN THE PRESENCE OF CURRENT

Kenneth M. Watson
Bruce J. West

Contractor: Physical Dynamics Incorporated
Contract Number: F30602-72-C-0494
Effective Date of Contract: 1 May 1972
Contract Expiration Date: 31 December 1974
Amount of Contract: \$91,818.00
Program Code Number: 2E20

Principal Investigator: J. Alex Thomson
Phone: 415 848-3062

Project Engineer: Joseph J. Simons
Phone: 315 330-3055

Contract Engineer: Leonard Strauss
Phone: 315 330-3055

Approved for public release;
distribution unlimited.

This research was supported by the
Defense Advanced Research Projects
Agency of the Department of Defense
and was monitored by Leonard Strauss
RADC (OCSE), GAFB, NY 13441 under
contract F30602-72-C-0494.

PUBLICATION REVIEW

This technical report has been reviewed and is approved.

Leonard Strauss
RADC Project Engineer

ABSTRACT

The scattering of electromagnetic waves from the ocean surface when a current is present is studied. The electromagnetic waves are singly scattered by two-dimensional linear surface gravity waves interacting with a surface current. The surface is described in terms of a Wigner function, i.e., the spectral density, which has finite spatial gradients. The effect of two dimensions on the spectral perturbation is explored in a preliminary calculation for a Phillips' ambient spectrum.

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1. Introduction

In a previous paper we have reviewed the effect of surface currents in modulating the ocean surface wave spectrum¹. In this work we have restricted ourselves to the linear approximation for the surface waves. The role of nonlinear surface wave-surface wave interactions has been studied in a preliminary way elsewhere², and a code has been developed to make a more thorough study of nonlinear interaction.

In this paper we use the rather simple results of III to survey qualitative features of electromagnetic wave scattering from the surface. A simple version of scattering theory will be used in which the electromagnetic wave is scattered only once. The more quantitative aspects of the scattering will be addressed in a later paper.

2. Description of the Scattering

Following Callen and Dashen³ we consider the scattering of a scalar wave field ψ by ocean surface waves. They separated the ocean surface into a long and short wavelength part; the long wavelength part having a small curvature at the ocean surface. The scattering is performed by the short wavelength surface gravity waves riding on the longer waves. In the present analysis, the long wavelength waves become the surface current. This will be discussed in the next section. For scattering an incident plane wave of wavenumber \underline{k} to a final wavenumber \underline{k}' , we have the scattered field in a simple single scattering approximation³

$$\psi_{sc} = R_o \int_{A_o} d^2x e^{i\underline{x} \cdot \Delta \underline{k}} \zeta(\underline{x}, t) . \quad (2.1)$$

Here $\Delta \underline{k} \equiv \underline{k} - \underline{k}'$ is the change of wavenumber vector, R_o is an amplitude factor, and the integral is taken over the illuminated area A_o of the ocean. The vector \underline{x} lies in the horizontal plane of the ocean surface when no waves are present and $\zeta(\underline{x}, t)$ is the vertical displacement of the surface at \underline{x} and time t due to wave motion.

We use the notation of III and write

$$\begin{aligned}\zeta(\underline{x}, t) &= i \left[z(\underline{x}, t) - z^*(\underline{x}, t) \right] / 2 \\ &= -\text{Im} [z(\underline{x}, t)]\end{aligned}\quad (2.2)$$

where

$$z(\underline{x}, t) = \sum_{\underline{k}} e^{i \underline{k} \cdot \underline{x}} a(\underline{k}) . \quad (2.3)$$

Equation (2.3) provides a Fourier representation of z in an assumed large area A_o of the ocean and the Fourier coefficients $a(\underline{k})$ are functions of time.

As is customary in changing from "box" or discrete to "continuum" normalization, we may replace the sum over discrete \underline{k} by an integral over continuous \underline{k} with the substitution

$$\sum_{\underline{k}} \rightarrow \frac{A_o}{(2\pi)^2} \int d^2 k . \quad (2.4)$$

The power spectrum of $\zeta(\underline{x}, t)$ at a position \underline{x} is given by the Wigner⁴ transformation

$$\begin{aligned}F(\underline{x}, \underline{k}) &= \frac{1}{2} \sum_{\underline{p}} e^{i \underline{p} \cdot \underline{x}} \langle a\left(\underline{k} + \frac{\underline{p}}{2}\right) a^*\left(\underline{k} - \frac{\underline{p}}{2}\right) \rangle \\ &= \frac{1}{2A_o} \int d^2 r e^{-ir \cdot \underline{k}} \langle z\left(\underline{x} + \frac{\underline{r}}{2}\right) z^*\left(\underline{x} - \frac{\underline{r}}{2}\right) \rangle , \quad (2.5)\end{aligned}$$

where $\langle \dots \rangle$ represents an ensemble average over many observations of the sea state.

Now,

$$\frac{1}{A_0} \sum_{\underline{k}} e^{i \underline{k} \cdot (\underline{x} - \underline{y})} = \delta(\underline{x} - \underline{y}) , \quad (2.6)$$

the Dirac δ -function, and

$$\frac{1}{A_0} \int d^2 r e^{i(\underline{k}-\underline{p}) \cdot \underline{r}} = \delta_{\underline{k}, \underline{p}} , \quad (2.7)$$

the Kronecker δ -function. Thus, from (2.5) we obtain

$$\sum_{\underline{k}} F(\underline{x}, \underline{k}) = \frac{1}{2} \langle |z(\underline{x})|^2 \rangle = \langle \zeta^2(\underline{x}) \rangle , \quad (2.8)$$

since we anticipate that

$$\langle a(\underline{k}) a(\underline{p}) \rangle = \langle z(\underline{x}) z(\underline{y}) \rangle = 0 , \quad (2.9)$$

i.e., the phase of the complex amplitude varies so rapidly in time that its net contribution to the statistical average vanishes.

If we wish to use continuum wavenumber variables, we refer to (2.4) and define the spectral function

$$\Psi(\underline{x}, \underline{k}) = \frac{A_0}{(2\pi)^2} F(\underline{x}, \underline{k}) , \quad (2.10)$$

with the normalization

$$\int d^2 k \Psi(\underline{x}, \underline{k}) = \langle \zeta^2(\underline{x}) \rangle . \quad (2.11)$$

Now, we return to Eq. (2.1) and obtain for the mean scattered power the expression

$$\begin{aligned}
 P &= |\psi_{sc}|^2 \\
 &= |R_o|^2 \int_{A_o} d^2x d^2y e^{i\Delta k \cdot (\underline{x}-\underline{y})} \langle \zeta(\underline{x}, t) \zeta^*(\underline{y}, t) \rangle \\
 &= \frac{|R_o|^2}{4} \int_{A_o} d^2x d^2y e^{i\Delta k \cdot (\underline{x}-\underline{y})} [\langle z(\underline{x}) z^*(\underline{y}) \rangle + \langle z^*(\underline{x}) z(\underline{y}) \rangle] \\
 &= \frac{|R_o|^2}{4} \int_{A_o} d^2v d^2r e^{-ir \cdot \Delta k} [\langle z\left(v + \frac{r}{2}\right) z^*\left(v - \frac{r}{2}\right) \rangle \\
 &\quad + \langle z\left(v - \frac{r}{2}\right) z^*\left(v + \frac{r}{2}\right) \rangle] \\
 &= \frac{A|R_o|^2}{2} \int_{A_o} d^2x [F(\underline{x}, \Delta k) + F(\underline{x}, -\Delta k)] \\
 &= (2\pi)^2 \frac{|R_o|^2}{2} \int_{A_o} d^2x [\Psi(\underline{x}, \Delta k) + \Psi(\underline{x}, -\Delta k)] . \quad (2.12)
 \end{aligned}$$

When the illuminated area A_o is sufficiently small that ψ is nearly constant over that area, we have

$$P \cong (2\pi)^2 A_o |R_o|^2 [\Psi(\underline{x}_o, \Delta k) + \Psi(\underline{x}_o, -\Delta k)] \quad (2.13)$$

where x_0 lies within the illuminated area. To observe $\Psi(x_0, \Delta k)$ or $\Psi(x_0, -\Delta k)$ individually, it is necessary to measure the Doppler shift. For backscatter, for example, a downshift in frequency will be associated with $\Psi(x_0, \Delta k)$ and a shift up for $\Psi(x_0, -\Delta k)$.

It is seen from Eqs. (2.12) and (2.13) that the basic requirement for evaluating the scattered energy from the ocean surface requires the expressions for Z obtained in III to calculate Ψ .

3. The Wigner Power Spectrum of $z(\underline{x}, t)$ in the Resonance Region

In III we assumed the interaction of the surface gravity waves with the prescribed surface current to be "turned on" at time $t = 0$. The expression obtained for z was of the form

$$z(\underline{x}, t) = \sum_{\underline{k}} e^{i\underline{k} \cdot \underline{x}} A(\underline{k}) G_{\underline{k}}(\underline{x}, t) , \quad (3.1)$$

where $G_{\underline{k}}(\underline{x}, 0) = 1$. The quantities $A(\underline{k})$ thus correspond to the $a(\underline{k})$ of Eq. (2.3) when there is no surface current. The "ambient" power spectrum, corresponding to the absence of a surface current, is then

$$F_a(\underline{x}, \underline{k}) = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{\underline{\rho}} e^{i\underline{\rho} \cdot \underline{x}} \langle A\left(\frac{\underline{k} + \underline{\rho}}{2}\right) A^*\left(\frac{\underline{k} - \underline{\rho}}{2}\right) \rangle , \quad (3.2)$$

or

$$\Psi_a(\underline{x}, \underline{k}) = \frac{A_0}{(2\pi)^2} F_a(\underline{x}, \underline{k}) . \quad (3.3)$$

When the ambient wave spectrum has a negligible spatial variation, we have

$$\langle A(\underline{k}) A^*(\underline{\ell}) \rangle = \langle |A(\underline{k})|^2 \rangle \delta_{\underline{k}, \underline{\ell}}$$

and

$$F_a(\underline{x}, \underline{k}) \equiv F_a(\underline{k}) = \frac{1}{2} \langle |A(\underline{k})|^2 \rangle . \quad (3.4)$$

Continuing to follow III, we suppose the surface current to be sinusoidal, with wavenumber K and phase velocity c_I , and to have the form

$$\underline{U}(\xi) = \hat{\underline{i}} U(\xi) = \hat{\underline{i}} U_0 \cos(K\xi) , \quad (3.5)$$

where

$$\xi = \underline{x} - c_I t . \quad (3.6)$$

The modulation function $G_{\underline{k}}$ was modelled for the "resonance region" in III as follows. First, the resonance wavenumber k_r is determined by the condition

$$c_I - c_g(k_r) \cos\theta_r = 0 , \quad (3.7)$$

where $c_g(k_r) = (g/k_r)^{1/2}/2$ and $\cos\theta_r = k_r \cdot \hat{\underline{i}} / k$. The resonance region was described as extending over a range

$$\Delta k = K S^{\frac{1}{2}} ,$$

$$S = 2 \left(\frac{k_r}{K} \right)^2 \frac{U_0}{c_I (3 \cos^2 \theta_r - 2)} , \quad (3.8)$$

about k_r .

In this region we use Eq. (4.42) of III to write

$$\begin{aligned}
 G_{\underline{k}} &= \exp \left[-ik \cdot \underline{U}(\xi) t \right] \hat{G} , \\
 \hat{G} &\cong \left[1 + \left(\frac{U_0 Kt}{2} \right) (1 + \frac{1}{2} \cos^2 \theta) \sin(K\xi) \right. \\
 &\quad + (U_0 kt/2)^2 \cos(K\xi) (1 - t/\tau_p)^2 / s \\
 &\quad \left. + \left(\frac{t}{\tau_p} \right)^4 \frac{\sin[2s^{1/8} \sin(K\xi)]}{\sin(K\xi)} \right] , \quad t < \tau_p . \quad (3.9)
 \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\tau_p = \frac{\pi}{2} s^{1/8} / U_0 k_r . \quad (3.10)$$

If we substitute (3.9) into (3.1) we obtain in a straightforward way

$$\begin{aligned}
 \langle z \left(\underline{x} + \frac{\underline{r}}{2} \right) z^* \left(\underline{x} - \frac{\underline{r}}{2} \right) \rangle &\cong \sum_{\underline{p}} \sum_{\underline{\rho}} e^{i\underline{\rho} \cdot \underline{x}} e^{i\underline{p} \cdot \underline{x}} \\
 &\times \langle A \left(\underline{p} + \frac{\underline{\rho}}{2} \right) A^* \left(\underline{p} - \frac{\underline{\rho}}{2} \right) \rangle \\
 &\times \exp \left[2it \underline{p} \cdot \underline{U}_0 \sin(K\xi) \sin \left(K \cdot \frac{\underline{r}}{2} \right) \right] \\
 &\times \exp (-i\underline{\rho} \cdot \underline{U}t) |\hat{G}|^2 , \quad (3.11)
 \end{aligned}$$

where $\underline{K} = \hat{K}\underline{i}$ and $\underline{U}_o = \hat{U}_o\underline{i}$. The relation

$$e^{iz \sin\theta} = \sum_{v=-\infty}^{\infty} e^{vi\theta} J_v(z) ,$$

where $J_v(z)$ is a Bessel function of the first kind of order v , in conjunction with Eq. (2.5) allows us to write the spectral density as

$$\begin{aligned} F(x, k) &= \sum_{v=-\infty}^{\infty} F_a\left(\underline{x}-\underline{U}t, k-\frac{v}{2}\underline{K}\right) \\ &\times J_v\left[2t\left(k-\frac{v}{2}\underline{K}\right) \cdot \underline{U}_o \sin(K\xi)\right] |\hat{G}|^2 . \end{aligned} \quad (3.12)$$

4. The Wigner Power Spectrum of $z(x,t)$ Outside the Resonance Region

We use the expressions (3.8) to specify the non-resonant region by the condition that

$$\frac{U_0}{(c_I - c_g \cos\theta)} \ll \left(\frac{U_0}{c_I}\right)^{\frac{1}{2}}, \quad (4.1)$$

where now $c_g(k) = (g/k)^{\frac{1}{2}}/2$ and $\cos\theta = \underline{k} \cdot \hat{i}/k$. Here we may use the WKB approximation to evaluate $G_{\underline{k}}$ in Eq. (3.1). From Eqs. (5.4), (5.7), and (5.9) of III we obtain

$$G_{\underline{k}} = \exp \left[\frac{i\underline{k} \cdot \underline{U}_0 \sin(K\xi)}{K(c_I - c_g \cos\theta)} \right] \hat{G},$$

$$\hat{G} = 1 + U \cos\theta (c_I - 2c_g \cos\theta + 2c_g \sin^2\theta) / [4(c_I - c_g \cos\theta)^2]. \quad (4.2)$$

Evaluation of $F(x, \underline{k})$ now leads to the expression

$$F(x, \underline{k}) \cong \sum_{v=-\infty}^{\infty} F_a \left[x + \underline{h} \sin(K\xi), \underline{k} - \frac{v}{2} \underline{K} \right] \\ \times J_v \left(\frac{2 \left(\underline{k} - \frac{v}{2} \underline{K} \right) \cdot \underline{U}}{K \left[c_I - c_g \left(\left| \underline{k} - \frac{v}{2} \underline{K} \right| \right) \cos\theta \right]} \right) |\hat{G}|^2. \quad (4.3)$$

Here we have evaluated \hat{G} at the wavenumber \underline{k} , a seemingly adequate approximation. The quantity \underline{h} in Eq. (4.3) is

$$\begin{aligned}\underline{h} &= \nabla_{\underline{k}} \left[\frac{\underline{k} \cdot \underline{U}_0}{K(c_I - c_g \cos\theta)} \right] \\ &= \frac{U_0}{K(c_I - c_g \cos\theta)^2} \left[c_I \hat{i} - \frac{3}{2} \left(\frac{\underline{k}}{K} \right) c_g \cos^2\theta \right] \quad . \quad (4.4)\end{aligned}$$

For wavelengths $2\pi/k$ much less than the wavelength at which resonance can occur, there is another contribution to (4.3) due to interaction with waves of wavenumber \underline{L} near resonance. In this case, Eq. (4.3) can be used, but with \hat{G} given by Eq. (5.15) of III:

$$|\hat{G}|^2 \cong 1 + \frac{U \cos\theta}{2 c_I} + \int d^2 L \psi_a(\underline{L}) \frac{L^2}{2} (\underline{k} \cdot \underline{L}) \operatorname{Re}(G_L^{-1}) , \quad k \gg L. \quad (4.5)$$

Here we have assumed that the ambient spectral function $\psi_a(\underline{L})$ is independent of \underline{x} , as was done in III.

5. Simplification for Small Amplitude Current Effects

At this point it is convenient to make the transformation (2.12) to the continuum power spectra $\Psi(x, k)$ in Eqs. (3.12) and (4.3). We shall also assume that the ambient spectrum is independent of position, so

$$\Psi_a(x, k) \equiv \Psi_a(k) \quad . \quad (5.1)$$

When $\frac{v}{2} |k| \ll |k|$ and the current is sufficiently weak, we can expand both the ambient spectra and Bessel functions in power of $\left(\frac{vk}{2}\right)$. On keeping only the lowest order and linear term, we can carry out the sum over v in closed form with the relations⁵

$$\sum_{v=-\infty}^{\infty} J_v(a) = 1$$

$$\sum_{v=-\infty}^{\infty} v J_v(a) = a \quad .$$

For the case corresponding to Eq. (3.12) we obtain

$$\begin{aligned}\Psi(\underline{x}, \underline{k}) = \Psi_a(\underline{k}) & \left\{ 1 + \left(\frac{U_0 K t}{2} \right) \cos^2 \theta \sin(K \xi) \right. \\ & + \frac{1}{2} (U_0 k t)^2 \cos(K \xi) \left(1 - \frac{t}{\tau_p} \right)^2 / S \\ & \left. + 2 \left(\frac{t}{\tau_p} \right)^4 \frac{\sin[2S^{1/8} \sin(K \xi)]}{\sin K \xi} \right\} \\ & - \left[k \frac{\partial \Psi_a(\underline{k})}{\partial k_x} \right] \left[t K U_0 \sin(K \xi) \right] .\end{aligned}\quad (5.2)$$

For waves far from resonance, we make the corresponding approximation in Eq. (4.3) to obtain

$$\begin{aligned}\Psi(\underline{x}, \underline{k}) = \Psi_a(\underline{k}) & \left\{ 1 + \frac{U}{2(c_I - c_g \cos \theta)^2} \left[c_I (\cos \theta - 2) \right. \right. \\ & \left. \left. + 2c_g \cos \theta (1 - \cos \theta) + c_g \cos^3 \theta \right] \right\} \\ & - \left[k \frac{\partial \Psi_a(\underline{k})}{\partial k_x} \right] \left[\frac{U \cos \theta}{c_I - c_g \cos \theta} \right] .\end{aligned}\quad (5.3)$$

Here $c_g = (g/k)^{1/2}/2$ and $\cos \theta = \hat{i} \cdot \hat{k}$, as before.

Finally, for wavelengths very short compared to wavelengths near resonance, we use Eq. (4.5) to obtain

$$\begin{aligned}\Psi(\underline{x}, \underline{k}) = \Psi_a(\underline{k}) & \left[1 + \frac{U}{2c_I} (\cos \theta - 2) \right. \\ & + \int d^2 L \Psi_a(\underline{L}) \frac{L^2}{2} (\hat{k} \cdot \hat{L}) \operatorname{Re}(G_L^{-1}) \left. \right] \\ & - \left[k \frac{\partial \Psi_a(\underline{k})}{\partial k_x} \right] \left[\frac{U \cos \theta}{c_I} \right] .\end{aligned}\quad (5.4)$$

6. Application to Phillips' Spectrum

As an application, we choose for $\Psi_a(\underline{k})$ the spectrum from Phillips⁶

$$\Psi_a(\underline{k}) = \frac{B}{\pi} |\underline{k}|^{-4}, \underline{k} \text{ within } 90^\circ \text{ of wind direction,}$$

$$B = 0.4 \times 10^{-2} . \quad (6.1)$$

Thus

$$k \frac{\partial \Psi_a(\underline{k})}{\partial k_x} = -4 \cos\theta \Psi_a(\underline{k}) . \quad (6.2)$$

Our parameters are chosen to correspond to typical oceanographic conditions:

$$U_o = 10^{-2} \text{ m/sec}$$

$$K = 10^{-2} \text{ m}^{-1}$$

$$k_r = 8.66 \text{ m}^{-1}$$

$$c_I = 0.50 \text{ m/sec}$$

$$\theta = 20^\circ \quad (6.2)$$

Here k_r is the resonant wavenumber defined by $c_I = c_g \cos\theta$.

The strength parameter S is

$$S = 4.609 \times 10^4 \quad (6.3)$$

and

$$\tau_r = \frac{2}{k_{res} U_0} = 23.09 \text{ sec} . \quad (6.4)$$

Rosenbluth's "pile up time" is then

$$\tau_p = 3894 \text{ sec} \quad (6.5)$$

and the extent of the resonance region [Eq. (3.8)] is

$$\Delta k = KS^{\frac{1}{2}} = 2.147 \text{ m}^{-1} . \quad (6.6)$$

For the spectrum (6.1) the term involving an integral over \underline{L} in Eq. (5.4) is negligible compared with the other two. In Eqs. (5.2), (5.3) and (5.4) the term involving $k \frac{\partial \Psi_a}{\partial k_x}$ appears to dominate [except for $t \gg \tau_r$ in Eq. (5.2)]. This was pointed out by Milder⁷ in his discussion of spectral perturbations. For a spectrum of the form k^p the relative contribution of the first and last terms in Eq. (5.4) is approximately $\frac{1}{2p}$, which in two dimensions is .125.

For the parameters given by Eqs. (6.2) - (6.6), Eq. (5.7) becomes, for an adverse current,

$$\Psi(\underline{x}, \underline{k}) = \Psi_a(\underline{k}) \left\{ 1 - .01 \left(\frac{t}{\tau_r} \right) \sin K\xi - 4.34 \times 10^{-5} \left(\frac{t}{\tau_r} \right)^2 \left(1 - \frac{t}{\tau_p} \right)^2 \cos K\xi \right\} . \quad (6.7)$$

The term linear in t above results primarily from the spectral gradient term, i.e., 90% of its value.

To illustrate the spectral perturbation in the regions away from resonance, we graph Eq. (5.3) in Figure 1 excluding the interval Δk about k_r . It is evident that above the maxima of the surface current ($\xi = 0$), the longer waves are enhanced and the shorter waves suppressed. The magnitude of the perturbation is found to increase as one goes to smaller angles. At $\theta = 0^\circ$, the perturbation extremes are in substantial agreement with previous calculations^{8,9}.

The width of the resonant region in Figure 1 is given by

$$\Delta k = KS^{\frac{3}{2}}$$

so that using Eq. (3.8) with the parameters we have been discussing,

$$\frac{\Delta k}{k_r} = \frac{.1155}{\sqrt{\cos^2 \theta - .666}} \quad (6.9)$$

which is plotted in Figure 2. We see from the slow rise of Eq. (6.9) from its minimum at $\theta = 0^\circ$ that the resonance width is proportional to the resonance wavenumber for

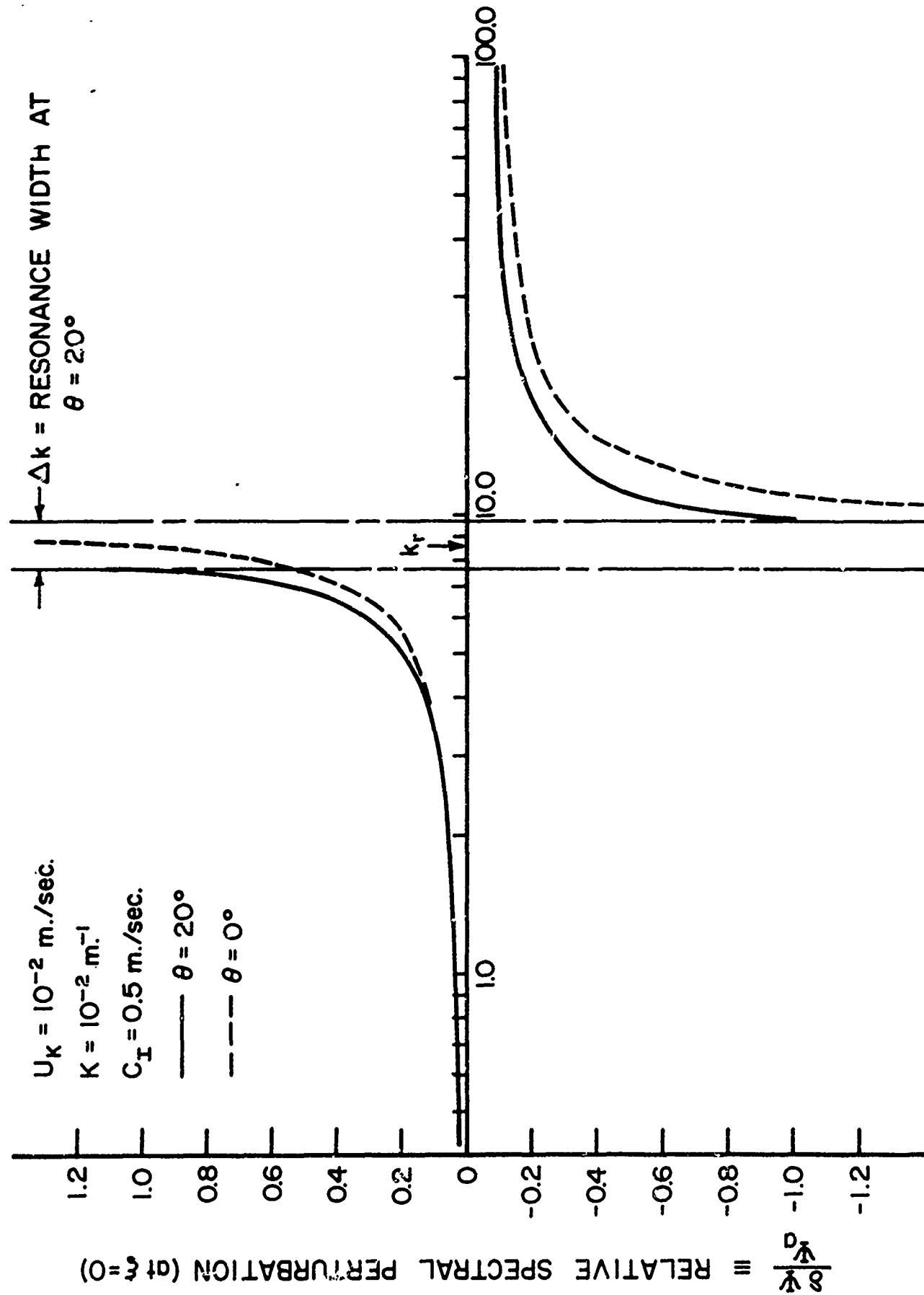


Figure 1.

$|\theta| \leq 30^\circ$ to within a factor of 2. In fact, it is only within a relatively narrow angular range about $\theta = \pm 35.26^\circ$ that the two-dimensional effects become very strong.

Finally we assume $k \gg k_{\text{res}}$ and write Eq. (5.4) as

$$\Psi(x, k) \cong \Psi_a(k) [1 - 0.06 \cos(K\xi)] . \quad (6.10)$$

Here also, the $\partial\Psi_a/\partial k_x$ term provides the dominant contribution to the modulation. The coefficient (.065) in Eq. (6.10) is seen to be the asymptote of the relative perturbation for the short waves as seen in Figure 1.

In Figure 1, we see the effect of the dependence of the resonant wavenumber (k_r) on angle, and from Eq. (6.9) the dependence of the spectral interval on angle. The solid line is the spectral perturbation for $\theta = 20^\circ$ and the dashed for $\theta = 0^\circ$. The resonance interval ($k_r \pm \Delta k/2$) is indicated for the $\theta = 20^\circ$ case. The 0° perturbation is seen to be shifted to a higher wavenumber and the maximum perturbation exceeds the 20° case, although for $k \leq (k_r - \Delta k/2)_{\theta=20^\circ}$ the 20° perturbation exceeds the 0° perturbation. The suppression of the shorter waves, however, is greater for all wavenumbers in the 0° case.

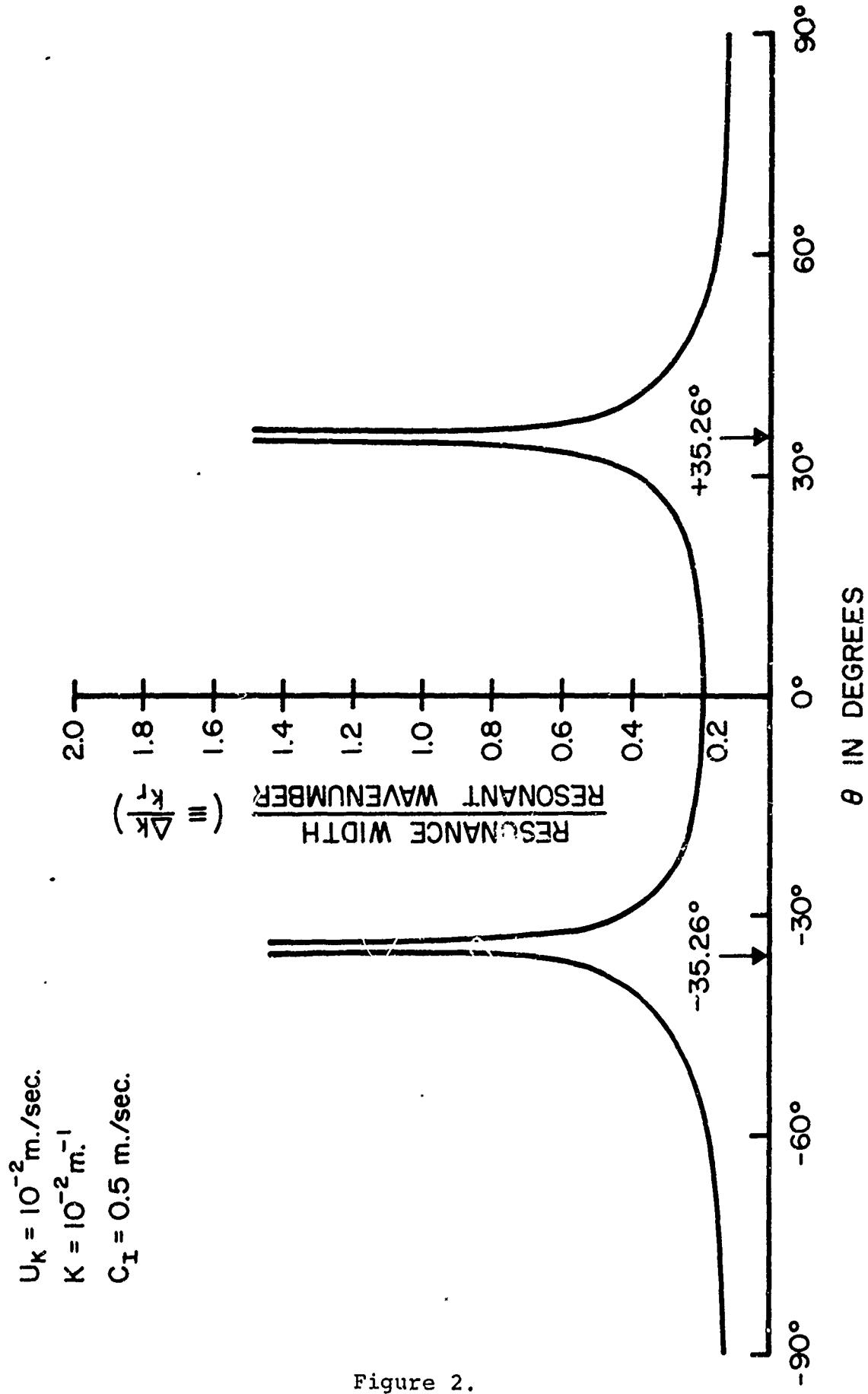


Figure 2.

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